



Family Friendly

WITH EXPERT ADVICE FROM RUTH NOBLE INTERIORS, THIS HOME PROVES THAT WITH A LITTLE REJIGGING AND CAREFUL PLANNING, STYLISH AND LUXURIOUS INTERIORS CAN BE PRACTICAL AND FAMILY FRIENDLY TOO

WORDS BY **PENNY CRAWFORD-COLLINS**.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **PHILIP LAUTERBACH**.

The owners of this new build five-bedroom Georgian style house in County Meath were attracted by its location, large open plan kitchen living area and pretty garden. But having lived in the house for a number of years, with a growing family, the couple felt their home lacked the space they needed. "Although the house was large we didn't seem to have much storage and there was nowhere for family clutter. Some areas of the house were dark and badly laid out, so initially we toyed with the idea of extending into the garage," explain the owners. However, after careful consideration, they

realised that the house simply required more storage and some reconfiguration to make it more functional, so rather than extending they decided to maximise the use of the large well-proportioned rooms and make better use of the space they already had.

They spent time researching ideas on Pinterest, Instagram and Houzz, and gathering inspiration from interiors magazines. Armed with their wealth of ideas the owners approached Ruth Noble Interiors. "We were a little nervous about using an interior designer as we had never used one



RUTH NOBLE CAME UP WITH AN INNOVATIVE PLAN TO UPDATE THE OVERALL AESTHETIC OF THE INTERIORS AND MAKE THE HOUSE MORE PRACTICAL FOR THE FAMILY.



“I CREATED AN OFFICE INCORPORATING NEW LIGHTING AND SHELVING, SO THIS SPACE IS NOW USER FRIENDLY AND HAS A CLEAR FUNCTION.”

before, so really wanted to get our ideas across. Ruth came up with an innovative plan that would update the overall aesthetic of the interiors and make the house more practical for the family, bearing in mind we have three growing children with changing needs." All the research and subsequent consultations gave Ruth Noble Interiors a clear vision of the owners' tastes, their likes and dislikes, and allowed Ruth to explore and expand their requirements, assessing how the home had to function on a day to day basis, and the spaces that needed to be focused on and improved.

"The owners knew what they were aspiring to with the interiors but required a clear direction regarding the layouts, schemes, storage and functionality," explains Ruth. "They also needed verification that the company could source



FOR A MORE ECLECTIC LOOK RUTH ENCOURAGED THE OWNERS TO MIX DIFFERENT STYLES OF FURNITURE, SOURCING MID-CENTURY PIECES THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT THEIR EXISTING PIECES.



quality products and work with their budget to produce the stylish functional home that they required for them and their family." Ruth could see there were areas in the house that could be reconfigured, to introduce more natural light, making them more functional and more family friendly. "Along with the attic space and the box room on the first floor, I reconfigured the layout of the utility-bootroom-cloakroom space, adding extra windows and storage. With the additional windows, the removal of walls and the new internal glass doors, the ground floor is now extremely practical and has more natural light that flows throughout the whole house," outlines Ruth.

On the first floor of the house there was a small box room, which was wasted space serving no real purpose. Ruth suggested removing the door and wall, making it open plan, adding a banister that wraps around this space so the light from the first-floor sash window can flow through the landing and hallway. "I



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created an office incorporating new lighting and shelving, so this space is now user friendly and has a clear function," she says. Similarly in the attic, Ruth removed the door and wall at the top of the stairs and added an extra Velux window which allows natural light to flood down from this space into the landing below. She divided up this space to create a multi-functional space incorporating a guest room and a space with storage plus an area to sit and relax.

"I was aware that the owners wanted to incorporate as much storage as possible, so there was a constant focus on how to introduce clever yet aesthetically pleasing storage to maximise the spaces but also blend harmoniously with the interior scheme I was creating," explains Ruth. She worked closely with Blackrock Kitchens to design and specify the fittings in the rooms that required storage which included the children's

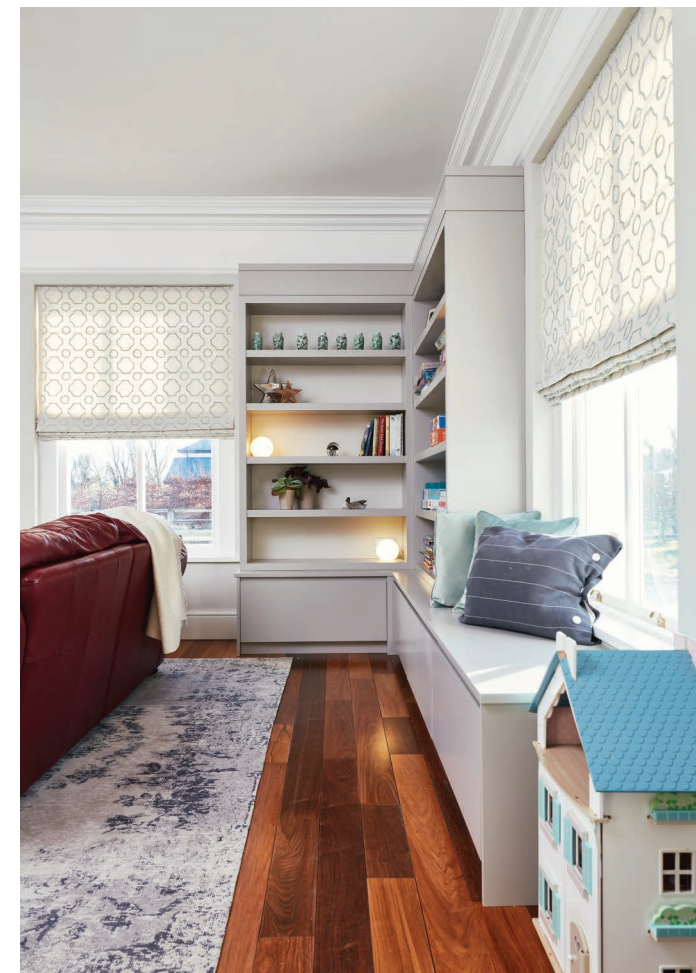
bedrooms, the play room, the office area, the master bedroom and walk-in wardrobe, the utility and cloakroom space, and also the attic space.

Bringing in Ruth Noble Interiors to improve the functionality of their home helped the owners realise they could push their boundaries. This made them more confident and bolder with their choice of colours and finishes to achieve a harmonious mix of style and comfort. "Be brave with colour and explore how similar colours have been used in similar spaces and how they are balanced by lighting flooring and furnishings. This will give you confidence in your choices," advises Ruth.

For a more eclectic look Ruth encouraged the owners to mix different styles of furniture, sourcing mid-century pieces that would complement their existing pieces that they

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wanted to keep. "Along with the carpets we updated the lighting, introducing a more contemporary style and painted the bannisters in a dark grey. All these final touches pulled the look together," adds Ruth.

"We are really pleased with how our home has come together," enthuse the owners. "Ruth was brilliant at working out a solution for our home to work with a family. The house now looks super. It feels airy, comfortable and has a wonderful flow to it, and more to the point, we have plenty of storage for a clutter-free existence."

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Source Directory

Furniture and lighting: Ruth Noble Interiors, T: 01 4100600, M: 086 7759746, RuthNobleInteriors.com
 Wardrobes and cabinetry: Blackrock Kitchens, T: 01 2108005, BlackrockKitchens.com
 Fabrics: Prestigious Textiles, T: 01 4568280, Prestigious.ie
 Paints: Colourtrend, T: 01 6288224, Colourtrend.ie; Little Greene, LittleGreene.ie
 Tiles: Tilestyle, T: 01 8555200, Tilestyle.ie

"BE BRAVE WITH COLOUR AND EXPLORE HOW SIMILAR COLOURS HAVE BEEN USED IN SIMILAR SPACES AND HOW THEY ARE BALANCED BY LIGHTING, FLOORING AND FURNISHINGS. THIS WILL GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE IN YOUR CHOICES."